00684.003330 PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	:	Examiner: Unassigned
Yusuke YAMADA, et al.	)	
	:	Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Application No.: Unassigned	)	
	:	
Filed: February 19, 2002	)	
	:	
For: SEALING MEMBER, TONER ACCOMMODATING CONTAINER AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS	) :) :	February 19, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 8, line 3 and ending at page 8, line 8 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

--Figures 7(A) through 7(C) are sectional views illustrating a toner supply container mounting operation, wherein Figure 7(A) shows an initial stage of the mounting

operation, Figure 7(B) shows the state in the process of mounting operation, and Figure 7(C) shows the state after the completion of the mounting operation.--

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 8, line 24 and ending at page 9, line 1 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

--Figures 12(A) through 12(C) are side views of a sealing member according to an embodiment of the present invention, wherein Figure 12(A) is a front view, 12(B) is a side view as seen in the direction X of Figure 12(A), and Figure 12(C) is a side view as seen in the direction Y of Figure 12(A).--

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 9, line 8 and ending at page 9, line 13 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

--Figures 15(A) through 15(C) are partially sectional views illustrating engaging action of a drive transmitting portion of a toner bottle, in which Figure 15(A) shows a state before insertion of toner bottle, Figure 15(B) shows a state in the process of insertion, Figure 15(C) shows a state after the completion of inserting operation.--

Please substitute the paragraphs starting at page 9, line 19 and ending at page 10, line 4 with the following replacement paragraphs. A marked-up copy of these paragraphs, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

--Figures 18(A) through 18(C) are illustrations of phase alignment when the toner bottle is inserted into the main assembly of apparatus wherein Figure 18(A) shows a state in which an engaging rib and an engaging projection are aligned with each other, Figure 18(B) shows a state in which they are not aligned after rotation to a certain extent, and Figure 18(C) shows a state in which the engaging rib is abutted to the engaging projection to enable drive transmission.

Figures 19(A) through 19(C) shows a sealing member according to an embodiment of the present invention, wherein Figure 19(A) is a left side view, Figure 19(B) is a front view, and Figure 19(C) is a right-hand side view.--

Please substitute the paragraphs starting at page 9, line 10 and ending at page 9, line 24 with the following replacement paragraphs. A marked-up copy of these paragraphs, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

--Figures 21(A) through 21(C) illustrate the drive transmitting portion of Figure 20 during a toner bottle inserting operation, wherein Figure 21(A) shows a state before insertion of the toner bottle, Figure 21(B) shows a state in the process of the inserting operation, and Figure 21(C) shows a state after completion of the inserting operation.

Figures 22(A) through 22(C) illustrate disengagement action at the drive transmitting portion of the toner bottle, wherein Figure 22(A) is before disengagement, Figure 22(B) is in the process of disengagement, Figure 22(C) is after completion of the disengagement action.

Figures 23(A) through 23(C) are sectional views of a sealing member according to a further embodiment of the present convention, wherein Figure 23(A) is a side view, Figure 23(B) is a front view, and Figure 23(C) is a sectional view.--

Please substitute the paragraphs starting at page 11, line 1 and ending at page 12, line 4 with the following replacement paragraphs. A marked-up copy of these paragraphs, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

--Figures 25(A) through 25(C) are illustrations of disengagement action at the drive transmitting portion of the toner bottle, wherein Figure 25(A) is before disengagement, Figure 25(B) is in the process of disengagement, and Figure 25(C) is after the completion of the disengagement action.

Figures 26(A) and 26(B) illustrate a sealing member according to a further embodiment of the present invention, wherein Figure 26(A) is a side view, and Figure 26(B) is a sectional view taken along a line X-X.

Figures 27(A) through 27(D) show a driving portion engageable with the sealing member of Figure 26 according to a further embodiment of the present invention, wherein Figure 27(A) is a front view, Figure 27(B) is a side view, Figure 27(C) is a sectional view taken along a line C-C of Figure 27(B), Figure 27(C) is a sectional view taken along a line D-D of Figure 27(A).

Figures 28(A) through 28(C) illustrate engaging action between the sealing member of Figures 26(A) and 26(B) and the driving portion of Figure 27, wherein Figure 28(A) shows a state in which the toner bottle is being inserted, Figure 28(B) shows a state in the process of insertion, and Figure 28(C) shows a state after the completion of insertion.

Figures 29(A) through 29(C) illustrate disengagement action after the engagement shown in Figures 28(A) through 28(C), wherein Figure 29(A) is before the disengagement, Figure 29(B) is in the process of the disengagement, and Figure 29(C) is after completion of the disengagement action.

Figures 30(A) and 30(B) are sectional views of a sealing member according to a further embodiment of the present invention, wherein Figure 30(A) is before disengagement, and Figure 30(B) is in the process of disengagement.--

Please substitute the paragraph starting at page 12, line 8 and ending at page 12, line 9 with the following replacement paragraph. A marked-up copy of this paragraph, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

--Figures 32(A) through 32(C) show a sealing member according to a modified embodiment of Embodiment 2.--

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 60 are present in the application. Claims 1, 20, and 41 are the only independent claims. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been presented.

The specification has been amended to even more closely conform the same to the drawings. No new matter has been added.

Favorable consideration, entry of this Preliminary Amendment, and early passage to issuance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 347-8100. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicants
William M. Wannisky
Registration No. 28,373

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212)218-2200

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO SPECIFICATION

The paragraph starting at page 8, line 3 and ending at page 8, line 8 has been amended as follows.

--Figures 7(A) through 7(C) are [Figure 7 is] sectional views illustrating a toner supply container mounting operation, wherein Figure 7(A) [(A)] shows an initial stage of the mounting operation, Figure 7(B) [(B)] shows the state in the process of mounting operation, and Figure 7(C) [(C)] shows the state after the completion of the mounting operation.--

The paragraph starting at page 8, line 24 and ending at page 9, line 1 has been amended as follows.

--Figures 12(A) through 12(C) are [Figure 12 is a] side views [view] of a sealing member according to an embodiment of the present invention, wherein Figure 12(A) [(A)] is a front view, 12(B) [(B)] is a side view as seen in the direction X of Figure 12(A) [(A)], and Figure 12(C) [(C)] is a side view as seen in the direction Y of Figure 12(A) [(A)].--

The paragraph starting at page 9, line 8 and ending at page 9, line 13 has been amended as follows.

--Figures 15(A) through 15(C) are [Figure 15 is a] partially sectional views [view] illustrating engaging action of a drive transmitting portion of a toner bottle, in which Figure 15(A) [(A)] shows a state before insertion of toner bottle, Figure 15(B) [(B)]

shows a state in the process of insertion, Figure 15(C) [(C)] shows a state after the completion of inserting operation.--

The paragraphs starting at page 9, line 19 and ending at page 10, line 4 have been amended as follows.

--Figures 18(A) through 18(C) are illustrations [Figure 18 is an illustration] of phase alignment when the toner bottle is inserted into the main assembly of apparatus wherein Figure 18(A) [(A)] shows a state in which an engaging rib and an engaging projection are aligned with each other, Figure 18(B) [(B)] shows a state in which they are not aligned after rotation to a certain extent, and Figure 18(C) [(C)] shows a state in which the engaging rib is abutted to the engaging projection to enable drive transmission.

Figures 19(A) through 19(C) [Figure 19] shows a sealing member according to an embodiment of the present invention, wherein Figure 19(A) [(A)] is a left side view, Figure 19(B) [(B)] is a front view, and Figure 19(C) [(C)] is a right-hand side view.--

The paragraphs starting at page 9, line 10 and ending at page 9, line 24 have been amended as follows.

--Figures 21(A) through 21(C) illustrate [Figure 21 illustrates] the drive transmitting portion of Figure 20 during a toner bottle inserting operation, wherein Figure 21(A) [(A)] shows a state before insertion of the toner bottle, Figure 21(B) [(B)] shows a state

in the process of the inserting operation, and Figure 21(C) [(C)] shows a state after completion of the inserting operation.

Figures 22(A) through 22(C) illustrate [Figure 22 illustrates] disengagement action at the drive transmitting portion of the toner bottle, wherein Figure 22(A) [(A)] is before disengagement, Figure 22(B) [(B)] is in the process of disengagement, Figure 22(C) [(C)] is after completion of the disengagement action.

Figures 23(A) through 23(C) are [Figure 23 is a] sectional views [view] of a sealing member according to a further embodiment of the present convention, wherein Figure 23(A) [(A)] is a side view, Figure 23(B) [(B)] is a front view, and Figure 23(C) [(C)] is a sectional view.--

The paragraphs starting at page 11, line 1 and ending at page 12, line 4 have been amended as follows.

--Figures 25(A) through 25(C) are illustrations [Figure 25 is an illustration] of disengagement action at the drive transmitting portion of the toner bottle, wherein Figure 25(A) [(A)] is before disengagement, Figure 25(B) [(B)] is in the process of disengagement, and Figure 25(C) [(C)] is after the completion of the disengagement action.

Figures 26(A) and 26(B) illustrate [Figure 26 illustrates] a sealing member according to a further embodiment of the present invention, wherein Figure 26(A) [(A)] is a side view, and Figure 26(B) [(B)] is a sectional view taken along a line X-X.

Figures 27(A) through 27(D) show [Figure 27 shows] a driving portion engageable with the sealing member of Figure 26 according to a further embodiment of the present invention, wherein Figure 27(A) [(A)] is a front view, Figure 27(B) [(B)] is a side view, Figure 27(C) [(C)] is a sectional view taken along a line C-C of Figure 27(B) [(B)], Figure 27(C) [(C)] is a sectional view taken along a line D-D of Figure 27(A) [(A)].

Figures 28(A) through 28(C) illustrate [Figure 28 illustrates] engaging action between the sealing member of Figures 26(A) and 26(B) [Figure 26] and the driving portion of Figure 27, wherein Figure 28(A) [(A)] shows a state in which the toner bottle is being inserted, Figure 28(B) [(B)] shows a state in the process of insertion, and Figure 28(C) [(C)] shows a state after the completion of insertion.

Figures 29(A) through 29(C) illustrate [Figure 29 illustrates] disengagement action after the engagement shown in Figures 28(A) through 28(C) [Figure 28], wherein Figure 29(A) [(A)] is before the disengagement, Figure 29(B) [(B)] is in the process of the disengagement, and Figure 29(C) [(C)] is after completion of the disengagement action.

Figures 30(A) and 30(B) are [Figure 30 is a] sectional views [view] of a sealing member according to a further embodiment of the present invention, wherein Figure 30(A) [(A)] is before disengagement, and Figure 30(B) [(B)] is in the process of disengagement.--

The paragraph starting at page 12, line 8 and ending at page 12, line 9 has been amended as follows.

--Figures 32(A) through 32(C) show [Figure 32 shows] a sealing member according to a modified embodiment of Embodiment 2.--